"Don't let child predators and identity thieves go after your family. Make the internet safe for your children."

Assemblyman
Katcho Achadjian

33rd District

IS YOUR CHILD SAFE FROM ONLINE PREDATORS?

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Knowledge of your child's activities is the best way to protect them. Also, teaching your children about internet safety is critical. Let your children know that it is okay to talk to you about any concerns they may have and that they will not get into trouble for telling you.

by Josepha Sherman

Online Lifeline: Internet Safety for Kids and Their Parents
by Lawrence Fine

Look Both Ways: Help Protect Your Family on the Internet
by Linda Criddle

Privacy on MySpace
Bottle Tree Books LLC

Facebook Fanatic: Explode Your Popularity, Secure Your Privacy and Buzz Your Band on Facebook
BottleTree Books LLC

www.computer-monitoring.com
www.guardiansoftware.com
www.howtospy.com
www.iambigbrother.com
www.k9webprotection.com
www.pctattletale.com
www.securitysoft.com
www.Software4parents.com
www.spectorsoft.com

**For more information
on Monitoring software:**
www.asm.ca.gov/Achadjian

Other Social Network sites

While Facebook and MySpace are the most widely used social networking sites, AsianAvenue, BlackPlanet, Bolt, Friendster, Hi5, LiveJournal, Mi-Gente, and Xanga are very popular.

Following these safety guidelines can help keep your children safe from predators, scammers, and stalkers.

The internet addresses to the social network sites are:

AsianAvenue	www.asianave.com
BlackPlanet	www.blackplanet.com
Bolt	www.bolt.com
Facebook	www.facebook.com
Friendster	www.friendster.com
Hi5	www.hi5.com
LiveJournal	www.livejournal.com
MiGente	www.migente.com
MySpace	www.myspace.com
Xanga	www.xanga.com

Law Enforcement

If you or your child suspect suspicious activities by others online, please contact your local law enforcement authorities or the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force at www.sachitechcops.org or (916) 874-3002.

Other Resources

There are websites and books devoted to internet safety as well as many others made specifically for social networking sites. These resources can help answer more questions and can be very useful in teaching your children about internet safety.

Many of these websites even provide tutorials about Facebook and MySpace with detailed instructions on deleting your child's profile.

Websites:
www.BlogSafety.Com
www.GetNetWise.org
www.suite101.com
www.myspace-safety.org
www.Netsmartz.org
www.safefamilies.org/socialnet working.php
www.SafeTeens.com
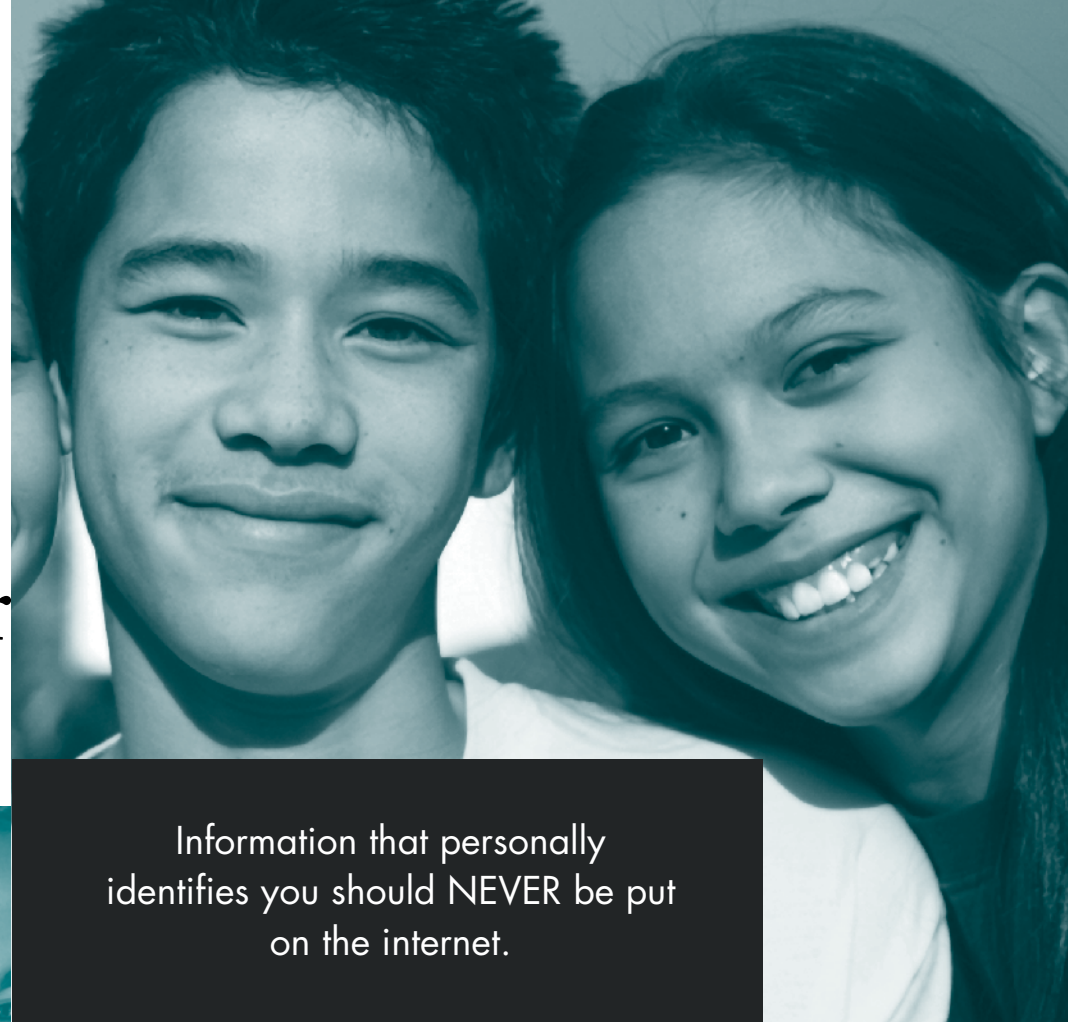www.WiredSafety.org

Books:
Internet Safety (Watts Library)

"The internet is part of our daily lives, especially for children. Social networking sites have become increasingly popular, and parents need to make sure that their children are using them safely.

Review this brochure to make sure that you are well informed on how to keep your family safe."

— Katcho Achadjian
Assemblyman, 33rd District

Don't let child predators your family. Make the for your children.

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absolutely certain that if you post this type of information, the proper security settings are in place and the information doesn't personally identify you.

Information that personally identifies you should NEVER be put on the internet. Remember, that even though you may think you are safe, once information is posted on the internet, there is always a possibility that it can be accessed. This can put you at risk for predators and identity theft.

Pictures can accidentally give away personal information. Be aware of pictures in front of your school, home, car with license plate, or clothes with your school name.

Remember that some people will try to get information from you, and even little pieces of information that you may not think much of can help them identify you.

Never post any comments or pictures that you would not want your boss, principal, parents, or friend's parents to see.

Be positive. Do not post anything negative about other people. You never know who might be looking! Delete any comments from friends that are negative or give away too much information about you.

Knowledge is power…. Teach your children about internet safety

Parents should make sure they learn the security features of the social networking sites and make sure their children are also familiar with them. Since many of these websites are constantly changing the security features, it is impossible to list those sites that contain security features and those that don't. Some sites simply have no security features.

While profile pages for your children should be set to "private" so that only people you set as your friends or family can see your profile, once the information is posted online, it is nearly impossible to ensure complete security and privacy.

Encourage your children to be alert to possible predators by knowing exactly who they are communicating with. The old adage, "Don't talk to strangers" also applies while online.

Tell your children never to arrange to meet people in person that they "meet" on the internet. People online are not always who they say they are. Bogus profiles can be established that make an individual appear to be harmless. They can be older or younger, live in another city or right around the corner, and have different interests or be a different gender than they say.

Tips for Users:

In addition to making sure your security settings are appropriate, some other tips for users of social networking sites include leaving the following information off of the profile:

- Real name (consider an alias or screen name only)
- Address
- Telephone numbers
- E-mail addresses
- Links to other websites that may give away personal information
- Age

While information like school names, sports teams, and clubs is important to the content of a social networking site, make

What are Facebook and MySpace?

Facebook.com and MySpace.com are social networking websites that let users keep in touch with friends and family throughout the world.

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internet safe

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Social networking sites have become extremely popular, especially amongst teenagers and young adults. Facebook and MySpace are estimated to have over 260 million users combined.

These social networking websites allow members to make personal profiles that reflect their personalities. Users can come into contact with people sharing similar interests from all over the world. This makes meeting new friends with similar interests easy and fun for youth.

Facebook and MySpace are great places to share ideas and ask questions. It is also fun to share pictures and communicate quickly with friends and family. While social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace are fun, there are some dangers that parents should know about. There are a few simple precautions you can take to ensure your child's safety from stalkers, pedophiles, identity thieves, and scammers.

Safety Issues

While both Facebook and MySpace have instituted various security upgrades and filters to keep your child from coming into contact with the wrong person, the sheer number of users of these websites make it impossible for the site to monitor everyone. For instance, while the website limits usage to those age 14 years or older, this is impossible to verify. It is up to parents to monitor their children's usage on all social networking sites.

What Can Parents Do?

Parents should become involved in their child's online activities.

Knowledge of your child's activities is the best way to protect them. Also, teaching your children about internet safety is key. Let your children know that it is okay to talk to you about any concerns they may have and that they will not get into trouble for telling you.

There are different ways to monitor and protect your child while on the internet:

- Only allow internet access while you are home

- Place the computer in common areas to discourage use of inappropriate sites

- Use monitoring software so that you can follow the internet websites that your child is viewing (ex. Spectorsoft products, PC Tattletale, and IAmBig-Brother)

- Facebook, MySpace and other social networking sites have many security features that allow for limited access to your child's profile. Know and teach your children these security features that prevent unapproved individuals from gaining access to your child's profile.

- View Facebook safety tips online at www.facebook.com/safety.

- View MySpace safety tips online at http://www.myspace.com/help/safety.

- Create internet rules for your child regarding which sites they are allowed to visit and what information they are allowed to post on websites.

- Ask to see your child's Facebook, MySpace and other social networking site profiles to make sure there isn't any unsafe information.

- Set your child's profiles to "private." This way, only users approved by your child are able to view the personal information, pictures, messages and blogs that your child posts on his or her social networking profile.

Knowledge of your child's online activities is the best way to protect them.